

ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of modern technology and establishing successful telework programs, small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. By establishing successful telework programs, small business owners would be able to retain these valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. This also gives employees more time to spend with their families and reduces stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation seeks to conserve the energy consumption of the Federal workforce and to extend the benefits of a successful telework program to our Nation's small businesses.

Specifically, each agency shall take such actions as are necessary to reduce the level of fuel consumed by vehicles of employees of the agency. Due to the needs to reduce our dependence on imported oil, the bill directs all Federal agencies to find ways to reduce energy consumption by 10 percent in the year following the bill's passage. Agencies can achieve this reduction through telework, carpooling, bicycling and walking to work, fuel-efficient trip planning, public transportation use, and limiting travel.

Further the bill establishes a pilot program in the Small Business Administration (SBA) to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in our bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled American veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

The legislation is also limited in cost and scope. It establishes the pilot program in a maximum of five SBA regions and caps the total cost to five million dollars over two years. It also restricts the SBA to activities specifically proscribed in the legislation: Developing educational materials; conducting outreach to small business; and acquiring equipment for demonstration purposes. Finally, it requires the SBA to prepare and submit a report to Congress evaluating the pilot program.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and demonstrating the willingness of the Federal Government to expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "Federal and Small Business Telework Promotion Act."

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.

Section Three—amends the National Energy Conservation Policy Act by adding a new subsection requiring Federal agencies to act so far as possible to reduce the amount of fuel used by its employees by at least 10 percent during the year after enactment. Military use of fuel would not be affected. An agency could seek to achieve this reduction through increased telework opportunities; more carpooling; more people bicycling or walking to work; fuel-efficient trip planning; greater use of public transportation; or by limiting use of vehicles for business travel.

Section Four—directs the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program to raise awareness of telework among small businesses and to encourage them to offer telework options to their employees. This program is to include special outreach to businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, including disabled veterans. Priority for locating the pilot program will be given to regions where Federal agencies and small businesses have demonstrated a strong commitment to telework. The pilot program will terminate after 2 years. This section also authorizes appropriation of \$5 million for implementation by SBA.

#### HONORING MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM A. BECKER

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Major General (Retired) William A. Becker, a distinguished veteran of World War II and Vietnam.

A Kaufman County native, William Becker was born on his family homestead in 1919. He graduated from Kaufman High School in 1936. He later attended Texas A&M College, where served as cadet corps commander during his senior year. Upon graduation in 1941, he was given a diploma, a commission as 2nd Lieutenant of field artillery, and orders to report within eight days to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Maj. Gen. Becker was sent to fight in the Southwest Pacific Theater during WWII, and in four years, he advanced from the rank of 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel.

Maj. Gen. Becker also served in Vietnam. Over his 30-year career he had a variety of other commands and assignments. His last active duty assignment was to the Pentagon with the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as Chief of Legislative Liaison, working with the United States Congress from 1968–1971.

During his years of service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal twice with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Upon retirement from the Army, Gen. Becker returned to his home community with his

wife, Fran, and their four children. In the early 1970's he established a real estate brokerage and is still active with that business. He also served as President of the Kaufman-Van Zandt Board of Realtors and Director of the Texas Association of Realtors.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a veteran, Gen. Becker understands that better than most Americans. On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to honor Maj. Gen. Becker today in the United States House of Representatives. It is because of his service, we are able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARJORIE S. ANTHONY

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to a dear friend and colleague of mine, Marjorie S. Anthony of South Windsor, Connecticut, who passed away on March 27, 2006. Marge was wonderfully unique in the way she pursued politics and community service. She did it with enthusiasm and love, candor and spirit.

Marge was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. My heart goes out to her family, her loving husband of 48 years, Peter T. Anthony, Sr. Marjorie will be greatly missed by her four children and their spouses: Katherine Kennison and her husband, Ed, of South Windsor; Marybeth D'Onofrio and her husband, Tom, of Ellington; Patty Antonaras and her husband, Sam, of Ellington. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her 12 grandchildren, Ashley Kennison, Shannon and Trevor Anthony, Matt, Rachel and Vinny Metacarpa, Katie, Tommy, and Christopher D'Onofrio, John, Brittany and Mikala Antonaras. Marjorie leaves behind five exceptional brothers, Charles J. Sullivan and sister-in-law, Maureen, of Riverton, NJ; Michael Sullivan and sister-in-law, Tina, of Atlanta, GA; Thomas Sullivan and sister-in-law, Carole, of South Bend, IN; Patrick Sullivan and Chris Domenick of Marlborough; and Kevin Sullivan of Hartford; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Thomas and Jane Anthony of Rocky Hill. Marjorie will also be deeply missed by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who were all a close knit family.

Marge led a tremendous life and was an active member of her community. Marge lived in South Windsor for 48 years of her life and graduated from Bulkeley High School. For 30 years of her life, Marjorie was a private business owner, Justice of the Peace, member of St. Francis of Assisi Church and Ladies Society, and State Central Connecticut Woman. Marge served as Past President of the South Windsor Democratic Women's Club, Past Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Democratic Town Committee, Past Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission, Chairperson of the South Windsor Committee for St. Patrick's Day Parade, Past Corresponding Secretary of the South Windsor Historical Society,